

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Thousands flee fighting on western bank of the River Nile.
- Spike in reports of gender-based violence against women and girls in and around Yei in recent weeks.
- Humanitarians have called on authorities to ensure that any relocation of IDPs is safe, dignified, voluntary and informed.
- More than 100,000 people remain displaced across northern Jonglei.

## FIGURES

No. of Internally Displaced People	1.97 million
No. of refugees in neighboring countries	1.83 million
No. of people food insecure (May-July 2017)	5.5 million

## FUNDING

**\$442.7 million**  
funding received in 2017\*

**27%**  
of appeal funding received in 2017

**\$1.6 billion**  
requirements for South Sudan 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan



Displaced people in Aburoc. Photo: OCHA/Gemma Connell

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## Upper Nile: Thousands in urgent need

Around 25,000 people who fled renewed fighting and the government offensive on the West Bank of the River Nile in April have travelled to Aburoc, with many subsequently continuing on to Sudan.

Thousands of people have arrived in Aburoc over the past two weeks, many of whom have walked for days on foot—without access to sufficient water due to conflict along the River Nile—and are arriving exhausted and weak. The population urgently needs protection and access to clean water, as people are primarily surviving on ground water sources in the area, which are inadequate and contaminated.

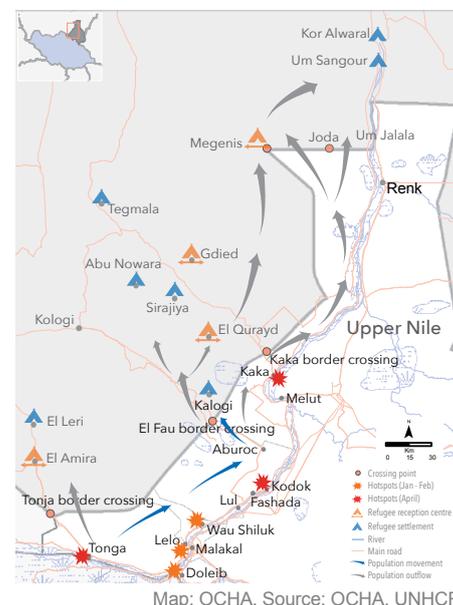
Many of those who fled to Aburoc have since moved to Sudan out of fear of potential future attacks. Some 5,948 new arrivals have been registered in South Kordofan, while 9,318 have been registered in White Nile. Thousands more are expected to be en route to these destinations.

“The first priority for civilians in Aburoc is, of course, their protection,” said the Humanitarian Coordinator *ad interim* for South Sudan, Serge Tissot, in a press release on 1 May. “Many are fleeing to Sudan, and our colleagues on the other side of the border will do all that is possible to assist them. However, it is entirely unacceptable that they are being forced to flee their home land.”

On 23 and 24 April, humanitarian organizations relocated staff from Kodok and Aburoc amidst the spread of conflict on the West Bank. Several courageous local staff remained in the community and an initial team of aid workers re-deployed on 9 May. However, key humanitarian assets, mainly vehicles, have been looted by opposition forces, and there are reports of local authorities occupying humanitarian compounds. Without these assets, humanitarians’ operations in this area, which is very remote and incredibly logistically challenging, will be hampered. Negotiations are ongoing to secure the release of the assets and to have the humanitarian compounds vacated.

The Spokesperson of the UN Secretary-General, in a statement on 29 April, denounced the escalation of violence and suffering of civilians in South Sudan, saying: “We urge the Government and other warring parties to cease hostilities, uphold their responsibility to protect civilians and cooperate with the United Nations and other humanitarian actors to ensure safe access to all civilians in imminent danger along the West Bank of the River Nile.”

### Displacement from the west bank



Map: OCHA. Source: OCHA, UNHCR

\*According to the Financial Tracking Service (<https://fts.unocha.org>). Additional pledges have been announced but not yet recorded.

Read more: *HC ai press release* -- <http://bit.ly/2pQL3o7>; *Spokesperson's statement* -- <http://bit.ly/2pUaVQB>

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*Only four schools are functional in Yei town as others are in unsafe areas.*

*Access outside of Yei town remains highly complex and challenging, with intensive negotiations required with multiple armed actors.*

## Equatorias: Protection concerns high in Yei

Humanitarian partners are concerned about the plight of civilians in Yei town and surrounding areas in Central Equatoria, following continued reports of violations against civilians, including killing and sexual violence.

Recent weeks have seen a spike in reports of gender-based violence against women and girls. On 21 April, armed actors allegedly moved through several neighbourhoods in Yei town, looting and destroying private properties, and reportedly raping some 25 women. Another six rape cases were reported on 23 April. Community members have protested the violations to the Governor, demanding the government to provide access for women to leave Yei town if they cannot guarantee them protection against rape, and calling on the Governor to remove the forces responsible for the rapes.

Access to food and farmland is a major challenge in Yei, with reports of civilians shot, raped or robbed when attempting to reach their plots or while endeavouring to carry food into town. On 5 May, a man was reportedly shot while tending to his garden on the outskirts of Yei town. There are also reports that government armed actors have uprooted cassava and sold it in the market. The market is steadily diminishing and prices are increasing. Humanitarians are combining the distribution of tools and vegetable seeds—aiming to reach more than 20,000 households in Yei—with intensive advocacy with local authorities to ensure the safety of people attempting to access their fields.

Most civilian structures outside Yei town are reportedly burnt and destroyed. UNOSAT analysis of satellite imagery showed more than 18,300 destroyed or damaged structures as of early March, and reports continue to be received of newly burned structures. About 150 huts were reportedly burned in Bori *boma* in late April.

Only four schools are functional in Yei town as others are in unsafe areas on the outskirts of the town. The functional schools are reported to be heavily crowded and lack sufficient teachers. Partners are planning to provide temporary classrooms in the affected schools to help cope with the over-crowding caused by displacement within Yei town, and have provided dignity kits to school girls in Yei town.

See more: UNOSAT satellite images -- <http://www.unitar.org/unosat/node/44/2568>

### Access outside of Yei: Progress and challenges

After many months with little to no access outside of Yei town, humanitarians have managed to reach multiple locations in recent weeks, including Goli, Gimunu, Attende and Komoyi.

In opposition-held Tore area, an assessment mission in March found a high level of destruction of property. People reported living on one meal a day due to challenges accessing their crops and there were allegations, similar to Yei, of people being attacked and killed when attempting to access their lands and of government armed actors uprooting cassava. During a response mission to Goli in early May, humanitarian partners visited a school which is hosting more than 1,700 internally displaced persons from Goli, Tore, Kundru, Bandame, Mundu-Logo and Lulumba. The inter-agency team provided: vegetable seeds; healthcare services, including vaccinations; nutrition screening; protection activities, including mine-risk awareness; mosquito nets; and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assistance. The team found that the hospital in Goli had been looted and is planning to bolster health services in the area.

In government-held Gimunu and Attende, humanitarians carried out assessments in April, undertaking nutrition screening and identifying several hundred civilians in the area in need of assistance who have been living in the bush for the past months. A follow-up response was carried out in early May, providing health consultations and delivering critical medical and WASH supplies.

Despite this important progress, access outside of Yei town remains highly complex and challenging, with intensive negotiations required with multiple armed actors. On 5 May, a humanitarian mission destined for Undukori was delayed due to mixed messages from opposition actors and subsequently denied passage at a government checkpoint despite holding letters granting clearance for humanitarian missions to the area.

## Wau: IDPs evicted from church, aid workers released

*Humanitarians have called on authorities to ensure that any relocation of IDPs is safe, dignified, voluntary and informed.*

Humanitarians are concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Wau town, where more than 65,800 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are now sheltering in multiple locations across the town, including more than 39,100 who have taken refuge at the UN protected area.

On 4 May, more than 6,600 IDPs were evicted from the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) compound in Wau by government authorities, about 2,000 of whom moved to the Hai Masna area, which IDPs had expressed fears was unsafe. Humanitarians have called on authorities to ensure that any relocation of IDPs is safe, dignified, voluntary and informed.

“I was alarmed to hear of the relocation of IDPs from the ECS compound to the Hai Masna area in Wau,” said Humanitarian Coordinator *ad interim* Serge Tissot on 5 May. “I remind the authorities that all IDPs have the right to be protected against forcible return to, or resettlement in, any place where their life, safety, liberty or health would be at risk, and urge them to reconsider this decision and permit those who wish to remain in the ECS compound to do so.”

Partners continue to respond to the influx of displaced persons in and around Wau since the upsurge of violence on 10 April 2017. However, the influx is stretching humanitarian resources in Wau protected area and space to shelter new arrivals is running out. Partners have constructed additional water points and emergency shelters in an area previously designated for food distributions, in an attempt to cope with the influx. Following reports of two suspected measles cases amongst new arrivals on 25 April, partners are planning a measles campaign in the coming days.



Aid workers construct new shelters in Wau protected area. Photo: IOM/McLaughlin

This latest influx into IDP sites follows fighting in Baggari area and subsequent reports of targeted killings of civilians of the Fertit/Balanda and Jur Chol tribes in Wau town. During the security operations in April, at least four humanitarian staff were detained, two of whom were released relatively quickly. A WFP staff member who was detained for two weeks was released on 2 May, while the Executive Director of the Unity Cultural and Development Centre (UCDC), Angelo Bensencio Mangu, who was held in detention for more than two weeks was released on 8 May. UCDC was actively engaged in the humanitarian response in Wau town, supporting delivery of food, among other activities. “I call on the authorities to return the UCDC assets that have been seized, which should be used solely for humanitarian purposes,” said Mr. Tissot.

### Displacement from Raja

Civilians were reportedly killed, injured and displaced during heavy fighting between armed actors in Raja in mid-April. Local residents report that Raja town is now deserted and civilians have fled to surrounding areas, including Deleba—in between Aweil West and Nyamlell—Mangayat, Temsah, Kata, Gossinga, Korcham and Bor Medina. Authorities have also reported that a large number of people have crossed into Sudan following the fighting. There are also unverified reports that some 7,000 IDPs from Raja are en route to Wau.

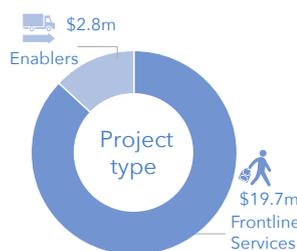
A humanitarian partner visited Deleba on 29 April and reported that, according to local leaders, there were around 3,000 IDPs and 7,000 people from the host community there. IDPs, who are mostly women and children, are reportedly travelling two to four days on foot from Raja and are arriving in Deleba in poor condition.

During the fighting in Raja, at least three humanitarian compounds were looted, including one NGO warehouse with nutritional supplies worth about \$14,000 that were intended to support more than 1,200 malnourished children.

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### Distribution of SSHF funds by type of partner and response



**More than 100,000 people remain displaced across northern Jonglei.**

## SSHF: \$22.5m for famine, displacement response

The South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF) has allocated US\$22.5 million to top priority frontline projects, providing a vital injection of resources as humanitarian needs continue to grow. The allocation was strictly targeted to ensure optimum use of the available funds. Twenty-five priority counties were identified, based on an analysis of the severity of needs, including locations where needs are rapidly rising due to conflict and displacement.

The allocation will fund 85 projects which address the most urgent life-saving needs in the prioritized counties. In famine-affected and at-risk areas, projects have been selected which promote a holistic response, ranging from treatment for acute malnutrition, provision of seeds and tools, and combatting communicable disease to school feeding and education in emergency activities, child protection, and prevention and response to gender-based violence. The allocation prioritized Nutrition (21 per cent), Health (16 per cent), WASH (13 per cent) and Food Security and Livelihoods (13 per cent) activities, while also funding common services (11 per cent) to support the transportation of aid workers and supplies, including to some of the hardest-to-reach areas.

### Famine response continues

Partners continue scaling up response to the localized famine declared on 20 February in Leer and Mayendit counties, with general food distributions completed in Mayendit town, Dablual, Thaker and Rubkuai. Food distributions have also been completed for over 30,000 people in Nyal, following the roll-out of the biometric registration system, and 23,185 people in Din Din in Leer County. In Koch County, missions had to be suspended to in Bieh and Koch following insecurity, but have subsequently resumed. Rapid Response Mission teams have been completed to Dablual, Thaker and Bieh, providing vaccinations, nutrition, WASH and child protection services alongside the food distributions, while an inter-cluster response mission was undertaken in Leah, providing nutrition, health and protection services, WASH assistance, seeds and tools, and non-food items. The distribution of seeds and tools is also ongoing in multiple locations across the famine-affected and famine-at-risk areas.

See more: *Famine response maps* -- <http://bit.ly/2qVJ3tq>

## Jonglei: Thousands displaced in remote locations

More than 100,000 people remain displaced across northern Jonglei following a government offensive which swept through multiple villages in the second week of April, including Waat and Walgak. Partners have scaled-up the preliminary response and are reviewing options to reach people in isolated locations after nearly 60 humanitarian workers had to relocate on 14-15 April.

IDPs have arrived in multiple locations since the fighting began, with about 60 individuals reportedly arriving in Akobo on a daily basis. Other people have moved to Kaikuiny in Akobo County (estimated 27,500 people), Peiri in Uror County (42,400), Lankien in Nyirol County (5,000) and other locations in the bush. There are also reports of people arriving from northern Jonglei into Upper Nile.

Humanitarian teams have deployed to Peiri, Kaikuiny and Yuai to provide food assistance and other life-saving services. This follows the distribution of high-energy biscuits and WASH items to around 2,500 IDPs in Kaikuiny in the days immediately following their displacement. Humanitarians are also planning to access other locations—such as Karam, Padol, Nyambor and Buong—to determine the number of people in need and the most appropriate response.

Given the fluidity of the situation, with armed forces still present in the area, there are concerns that there could be further offensives. Humanitarian partners are reviewing options to ensure that any assistance provided can be carried by IDPs if they are forced to flee again.

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OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at: [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)